



# The VNA Voice

Edition 37 - Fall 2022 - [kansasvna.org](https://kansasvna.org)

## From Our House to Yours

While most of the content in this edition is celebratory, I want to spend my column making you aware of potential actions by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) that can significantly impact VNA and the services we provide. CMS continuously works toward curbing Medicare spending through a variety of paths that impact multiple provider types. The most recent relates to Home Health reimbursement. The proposed payment rule for 2023 includes a potential cut of nearly 8%, which will reduce our Home Health revenue approximately \$160,000.



VNA appreciates the current economic environment impacting everyone at this time. However, we also recognize you support the agency and the important work we do. For that reason, I'm making you aware of how you can help. Pending legislation, "The Preserving Access to Home Health Act of 2022" (S. 4605/H.R.8581) is under consideration by Congress. The bill would prevent proposed cuts from taking effect prior to 2026, which would allow CMS to re-examine its approach to calculating necessary budget adjustments. Additionally, Home Health agencies would be afforded more time to move past the financial impact of the COVID pandemic. Past experience indicates grassroots efforts are effective with our representatives. Our national association has created a simple online

mechanism for advocates to contact elected officials. You can do so through this link: [Prevent Home Health Cuts that Will Devastate Access to Care \(https://p2a.co/VySnMGz\)](https://p2a.co/VySnMGz).

My celebration with this message is the gratitude VNA feels for the continuous support you provide. We have been here for 53+ years as a result and will continue to serve you, your loved ones, and our community for many more with perseverance and your assistance. Thank you for being here with us!



*Cynthia Lewis*  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## OUR MISSION

**Improving quality of life** through  
**compassionate patient care**  
wherever you call **home.**



# VISITING NURSES

Edition 37 - Fall 2022 - kansasvna.org

*Development Corner: The 3.d Casino Night Fundraiser Returns*

# 3.d CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER



# 5.5.2023

at  
**Macefi's**  
*Our place or yours?*

## *Heart of VNA: Recognition for Dedication to Compassionate Care*

**V**NA's mission, improving quality of life through compassionate patient care wherever you call home, is the driving force behind everything VNA's staff does. This mission motivates excellence throughout the organization. This was evident when VNA followed up a 2018 deficiency-free Home Health State Survey with a second consecutive deficiency-free survey in July of this year. These



surveys are conducted by State surveyors every 36 months on behalf of Medicare to ensure that organizations are complying with Federal regulations.

To recognize staff for this impressive accomplishment, lunch was provided at one of the Home Health program's weekly meetings. For some additional celebratory fun, VNA's Business Development team organized a surprise for staff to continue to "taco 'bout" the



## *Heart of VNA: Recognition for Dedication to Compassionate Care (cont.)*

deficiency-free survey. At the start of one of their weekly meetings, the Home Health staff split into two teams to take turns at opening up some candy filled taco piñatas. It was a fun, candy-filled activity for all involved.



VNA's staff continues to strive to provide compassionate patient care while thoroughly completing the documentation required along the way. This continued commitment from VNA's staff will hopefully lead to many more deficiency-free surveys in the future.



## *Volunteer Spotlight: Betty's Big Birthday Bash*

VNA has been lucky enough to be involved in celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> birthday's before, but on September 11<sup>th</sup>, VNA got to take part in an extra special celebration. Betty Lane, a long-time VNA volunteer, celebrated becoming a centenarian with many friends, family, and VNA staff surrounding her at Meadowlark Estates.



Pictured above: Betty celebrates after blowing out the candles on her cake.

To say Betty is beloved almost feels like an understatement. Her personality and outgoing nature seem to draw people in, as her party made clear. In a video made for the occasion and at the party, friends and family shared stories and spoke of Betty's many wonderful qualities, leading to many heartfelt moments and even more laughter. At the end of the party, Betty addressed the attendees to express her appreciation for them and for the

occasion, but there was one more surprise to come.



The party ended with Betty going for a ride in the Batmobile. It was a fitting ending to a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for a woman few would ever guess is 100 years old.



Pictured above: Betty and her son, Gerald, sit at the front of the room after Betty's grand entrance to her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

## Staff Spotlight: All She Does is Win

Since joining VNA in January, Michelle Watson has made important contributions and has been very involved. She is already a member of the Social, DEI, and Wellness Committees. VNA's Informatics/Data Specialist has also made a habit of winning awards.



Pictured above: Michelle with her 1<sup>st</sup> place awards for VNA's NCAA Bracket Challenge and Terrible School Photo Contest.

After winning first place awards from VNA's Social Committee for the NCAA Bracket Challenge and Terrible Photo Contest, Michelle

received her most impressive award yet since joining VNA. In late September, Michelle was presented with the Kansas Home Care & Hospice Association's (KHCHA) Home Care & Hospice Rising Star Award at the annual KHCHA conference in Wichita. She earned the award by quickly adapting and contributing to the home care industry after spending most of her career in long-term care. The nomination for the award noted "it is astonishing how rapidly Michelle has integrated into the home health and hospice arena and the industry's unique language and data. She is a trusted resource to her peers and the leadership team." Regarding the award, Michelle said "I was as honored as I was



Pictured above: Michelle holding the Rising Star Award with KHCHA Executive Director, Jane Kelly.

surprised to receive this award. I have spent the last twenty years of my career in long-term care and assisted living and was nervous about making the move to home care and hospice. VNA has a wonderful group of leaders who have taken me under their wing. I look forward to many more years at VNA."

**Connect  
Online!**



[www.facebook.com/kansasvna](http://www.facebook.com/kansasvna)



[@kansasvna](https://twitter.com/kansasvna)



[@kansasvna](https://www.instagram.com/kansasvna)

# All Your Home Care Needs Under One Roof

## VISITING NURSES



200 Maine Street, Suite C • Lawrence, KS 66044

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 116  
LAWRENCE, KS